

Minutes of the November 19, 2015 Economic Development Commission  
Town Hall (first floor conference room) – 8:30 a.m.

Members present: Howard Orr, Roger Tracey, Gloria Smith, Kate Rietberg, Brian Banak, Sue Thorner, Lynda Montefusco.

Also present: First Selectman Melisa Mack, Economic Development Director Patrick McMahon

Chairman Orr called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

Citizen Comment: None

Minutes: Mr. Orr asked for a motion to approve the EDC minutes of the October 15 meeting; the minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

Sale of Lot on Bennett Road – Mr. McMahon introduced Mr. Lee Corbet who is a prospective buyer for the Bennett Road property. Mr. Corbet stated his company, CS Landscape Design did work for people in Town. It does patios, playgrounds, sell mulch and stonework, brick. Currently located at Ffyer Place, but it was suggested that I look at another property. Mr. Corbet would like to keep his business in Suffield. He came to Suffield because of the excellent reputation of the local schools. He wants to keep his tax dollars in Town. The Bennett Road lot would allow us to expand into Windsor Locks. The lot is essentially across the street from Hood Ice Cream. He plans to build a 3600 sq ft building. He would maintain the Suffield sign as it would be on his property. The entryway would be off Bennett Road. It would include retail mulch sales. They do delivery for free in Suffield. He does have a signed contract, contingent upon Board of Selectman, and needs the approval of the required commissions, and then go to Town Meeting. The members reviewed the site plan. All equipment will be kept inside the building.

First Selectman Mack asked when he began the process. Mr. Corbet said in August. Ms. Mack stated this was not acceptable. This process is so convoluted. Mr. Orr asked if the First Selectman could expedite the current process. Ms. Mack stated that she would pursue it. The Board of Selectmen is ready to act as soon as the commission approvals come through.

Mr. McMahon stated that Windsor has a very quick approval process involving all commissions.

He would like an endorsement on the purchase by EDC. Mr. Orr recused himself because his supplier is his brother in law. He did not vote.

The endorsement of the proposed sale of land was approved by a vote of the EDC.

Ffyer Place –Mr. McMahon noted that we had a very nice ribbon cutting ceremony at the new CVS. The weather was good and the ceremony went very well. The project came out the way we wished it.

What is the vision for Fflyer Place?

Mr. McMahon stated, we could go back to the first proposal, a grocery store, apartments, and get the opinion of the residents. All the developers have told the Town that the Highway Garage has to be relocated. Could we go to the Town with a proposal? We have the environmental study done and we could get estimates of demolition costs. Could the Town personnel take down the two buildings that are falling down?

The Canal Road and Harvey Lane projects will be out to bid over the winter for spring construction. The Town will do its share of the Harvey Lane construction; the State will do its share at a later date.

It is noted that the Utilities Expansion project down #75 is way over its budget if we complete the entire project. The overage is approximately \$1,000,000. We could do the project as far as our grant allows.

Discussion for the next meeting: relocating Town Garage and business into Fflyer Place.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Bobbie C. Kling, Secretary EDC.Minutes.Nov. 19.2015

